commitment of Rs. 25,000/- crores over the next four years for State-specific farm strategies, a food security mission to augment production of wheat by 8 million tonnes, rice by 10 million tonnes and pulses by 2 million tonnes;

(b) if so, what was the outcome of the discussion held; and

(c) to what extent both State Governments and the Central Government have taken various steps to improve the food situation in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA) (a) Yes, Sir. The National Development Council's resolution dated 29th May, 2007 has identified the need for introducing a new Additional Central Assistance scheme to be administered by the Ministry of Agriculture to incentivize the States to draw up plans for their agriculture sector more comprehensively. It was also proposed to introduce a Food Security Mission in the country to enhance the production of rice, wheat and pulses by 10, 8 and 2 million tonnes, respectively by the end of Eleventh Plan.

(b) Both the schemes are ready for implementation.

(c) It is expected that once these schemes get underway a difference will be made to the food security situation of the country.

Agricultural growth and GDP

1376. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the contribution of agriculture on which more than half of the population in the country depends for its livelihood is only 22 per cent of the GDP;

(b) whether the growth rate of agriculture has declined and is merely 1.5 per cent;

(c) whether share of agriculture has declined in GDP during the past years;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether Government have taken or propose to take measures to enhance the growth rate of agriculture and its contribution in GDP?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) According to data compiled by Central Statistical Organization (CSO), the share of agriculture and allied sectors in the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at constant (1999-2000) prices was about 22 per cent in 2003-04, which has reduced to 18.5 per cent in the year 2006-07.

(b) Average annual growth rate during 2002-07 in agriculture and allied sectors is 2.3 per cent at constant prices (1999-2000). Table below gives the year-wise growth rates achieved in the agricultural & allied sector during the Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-07).

(At 1999-2000 prices)

Year	Actual Annual Growth Rate in Agriculture & allied sectors (%)
2002-03	-7.2
2003-04	10.0
2004-05	0.0
2005-06(QE)	6.0
2006-07(AE)	2.7

Source: Central Statistical Organization, QE = Quick Estimate, AE =Advance Estimates

(c) and (d) The share of agriculture and allied sectors in GDP at constant (1999-2000) prices has declined over the last few years. It was 24.0 per cent in 2001-02, 21.5 per cent in 2002-03, 21.7 per cent in 2003-04, 20.2 per cent in 2004-05, 19.7 per cent in 2005-06 and 18.5 per cent in the year 2006-07. The decline in share of agriculture and allied sectors in total GDP follows from relatively faster pace of growth in services sector the share of which increased from 51 per cent during 2001-02 to 54.9 per cent in the year 2006-07.

(e) The National Development Council (NDC) in its 53rd meeting held on 29.5.2007 has emphasized to evolve a strategy to rejuvenate agriculture. It involves, *inter-alia*, the following crucial elements:

- State Governments are to prepare District and State Agriculture Plans for prioritizing the investment in the sector.
- Introducing a new scheme for Additional Central Assistance (ACA) to State Plans. The newly created National Rainfed Area Authority (NRAA) would assist States in planning for rainfed areas.
- To provide additional resources for irrigation.
- Strategic focus on the national agricultural research effort.
- To take new initiatives for skill development in the farming community.

The Government of India has recently approved two schemes for enhancement of agriculture sector. These are (i) National Food Security Mission (NFSM) and (ii) Additional Central Assistance Scheme (ACAS) for implementing the State and District Plans for agricultural development.

NPM in Andhra Pradesh

1377. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the 15 districts that have been notified as 'distress districts' by the Central Government in Andhra Pradesh, the Non-Pesticidal Movement (NPM) is gaining momentum;